

MINUTES
VIEUX CARRÉ COMMISSION
THURSDAY, March 6, 2014 - 1:30 P.M.
City Council Chamber, City Hall - 1300 Perdido Street

PRESENT: Nick Musso, Vice-Chairman
C.J. Blanda
Alfred “Pio” Lyons
Michael Skinner
Leslie Stokes
Daniel Taylor

ABSENT: E. Ralph Lupin, M.D., Chairman
Pat Denechaud, Secretary
Jorge A. Henriquez

STAFF PRESENT: Lary P. Hesdorffer, Director; Gordon McLeod, & Sarah Ripple, Building Plans Examiners; Melissa Quigley, Assistant City Attorney.

STAFF ABSENT: Nicholas G. Albrecht, Building Inspector.

OTHERS PRESENT: Betty Norris, Robert Vanlangendonck, Anthony N. Johnson, Erin Holmes, Warren Reuther, Gail Cavett, Kirk Fabacher, Ed McIntrye, Daniel Husley, Bob Sims.

I. ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Musso called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM and, after noting there would be no Chairman’s Report, requested the roll call. Mr. Hesdorffer called the roll, noting the presence of a quorum with six (6) members in attendance, which also requires five (5) favorable votes to pass any action.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES from meetings of January 10 & February 5, 2014

Mr. Blanda moved, Mr. Taylor seconded, to approve the minutes of January 10 & February 5, 2014 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Musso stated that the chairman Dr. Lupin was not present, and that as acting chairman, he did not have a report to render at the present time.

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Hesdorffer noted that the 2013 Attendance Report for the VCC meetings had been circulated for the commissioners’ review. He added that the report will be forwarded to the City Council as is the annual practice. Secondly, he noted that office operations had settled back into what might be called “normal” business following a particularly busy period that had included Mardi Gras, the NBA All-Star weekend, and the numerous related special activities over the past 5-6 weeks. Finally, Mr. Hesdorffer extended an invitation to all to attend a 6PM vocal recital, given by Mr. Skinner’s brother Fernando del Valle at St. Mary’s Church at the Old Ursulines Convent.

V. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS – Presentation by Gail Cavett, Infrastructure Committee Chair, French Quarter Management District, in regard to proposed City Council ordinance to limit vehicle sizes on Decatur Street.

Ms. Cavett, along with Bob Simms, made a PowerPoint presentation concerning traffic congestion on the Decatur/N. Peters corridor, particularly noting the increased proliferation of buses (intra-state transportation, day-coaches and local on-off carriers) that use RTA stops and occupy areas not specifically designated for bus parking or loading. The intent of the presentation was to seek support and input concerning the proposed amendment to the City Code being drafted that would affect and limit the size of buses that operate in this area of the French Quarter.

Following the presentation there was a Q & A period for both Commissioners as well as members of the audience. Speakers from the public included Warren Reuther, Anthony Johnson, Erin Holmes, and Robert Vanlangendonck. Ultimately after discussion had ended, Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Blanda seconded, that the VCC should communicate to the City Council’s Transportation Committee its most sincere interest in improving vehicular regulations that clearly impact the character and condition of historic structures and the preservation of the City’s oldest and most

delicate historic district. Furthermore, knowing that the proposed amendment is being studied and that the language has not been finalized, the VCC's motion voiced its general support for efforts to further regulate the bus sizes and usage in the Decatur/N. Peters corridor and its recognition that such an amendment would be a good first step as an *interim action*. The Commission additionally recommended that a comprehensive transportation study be undertaken to evaluate transportation activity in the French Quarter and address the effects of vehicular/transportation activity throughout the Vieux Carre. The motion passed with all in favor.

VI. CHANGE OF USE HEARINGS

510-16 Bienville: 516 Bienville Street Development, LLC, owner; Kirk Fabacher, applicant; Ed McIntyre, tenant. Proposal to install exhaust hood & signage in conjunction with a **change of use** from *vacant* to *restaurant*, per application & materials received 01/22/14 & 1/23/14, respectively.

Mr. McLeod made the staff report with Messrs. Fabacher & McIntyre present to represent the application. Mr. Musso inquired if the application to the BZA for the requisite waiver of the requirements of section 12.2.5 of the CZO to install the signage had been made. Mr. Fabacher confirmed that it had. Mr. Taylor moved, and Mr. Blanda seconded to **approve the change of use** from *vacant* to *restaurant*, and the proposed exterior modifications, including the exhaust system and signage, and to **support** the application to the BZA for the requisite waiver of the requirements of section 12.2.5 of the CZO to install the signage as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

510 Conti: Charles C. Ramsey, owner; Daniel Husley, prospective owner/applicant. Proposal to install signage in conjunction with a **change of use** from *residential* to *commercial* (tobacco)/*residential*, per application & materials received 02/12/14.

Mr. McLeod made the staff report with Mr. Husley present to represent the application. After no discussion, Mr. Lyons moved, and Mrs. Stokes seconded, to approve the **change of use** from *residential* to *retail* (tobacco), thereby authorizing staff to issue permits for the signage. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. VIOLATIONS & APPEALS

923 Barracks: 923 Barracks, LLC, owner; Lee Larrieu (prospective owner); Earl Larrieu, applicant. Proposal to replace slate roof & weatherize building per application received 01/17/14. **[STOP WORK ORDER issued 11/05/12; Notices of Violation sent 11/06/12 & 08/23/13]**

Mr. McLeod made the staff report with Mr. & Mrs. Larrieu present to represent the application. Mr. Musso noted that the effort of the new owners to resolve outstanding violations was appreciated. Mr. Lyons moved, and Mr. Blanda seconded, to **lift** the STOP WORK ORDER & to **approve** the application as submitted, thereby authorizing staff to issue permits for the work. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of February 5, 2014.

Mr. Taylor moved, and Mr. Blanda seconded, to **ratify** the actions of the Architecture Committee and Staff actions since February 5, 2014 meeting of the Vieux Carré Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Musso seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED: _____
Pat Denechaud, Secretary

NOTE: These minutes are a summary of actions taken and are not a verbatim transcription of the meeting.